(f) The NMMA is given 5 years time-frame ending in March 2012 to accomplish the task.

Development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial

1556. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be please to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to give corpus fund for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad, Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which Government proposes to start the work regarding development/maintenance of the said memorial?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) A decision has been taken by the Government to sanction a one time capital grant of Rs.3 crore and an appropriate annual maintenance grant to Sardar Patel Trust for development and maintenance of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel - Veer Vithalbhai Patel Memorial at Karamsad, Gujarat. The Trust will undertake the development and maintenance of the memorial.

Records in National Archives

1557. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite rules on the same Ministries don't transfer records to National Archives;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when post 1947 Government records would be available in National Archives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) With increasing pressure of work; Ministries are reportedly unable to give adequate attention to the classification of old files for the purpose of sending them to the National Archives. Another reason may be that in the last four decades, several ministries and departments have reorganized and their parts relocated, while newer ministries set up, all of which may have caused some breaks *vis-a-vis* the custody and classification of old records.

(c) The Cabinet Secretary has also reviewed the matter on 31st October, 2009 and laid down a plan of action.

Endangered heritage sites

1558. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a 16th century castle in Kargil, a 17th century monastery in Ladakh, a historic civic centre in Shimla and a palace in UP figure in the list of 93 endangered heritage sites across 47 countries compiled by World Monument Fund;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) whether these monuments are in Government's list for heritage monuments; and

(d) if so, how the Government propose to protect and preserve these sites?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) The World Monument Fund (WMF) is private trust based at New York (USA). It has no connection with UNESCO. It funds conservation, restoration and development of monuments worldwide. In its publication "2010 World Monument Watch", it has indicated that the following 4 sites in India are at risk out of 93 such sites identified by the Fund across 47 countries:

(i) Chiktan catsle, Kargil (Laddakh)

(ii) Dechen Namgyal Gonpa, Nyoma (Laddakh)

(iii) Historic Civic Centre, Shimla (Himachal Pradesh)

(iv) Kothi, Qila Mahamudabad.

None of the above sites are under ASI protection.

(d) Does not arise.

Change in monsoon

1559. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:

SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state whether there has been significant change in the pattern of the monsoon in the last decade, in any of the Meteorological divisions of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): The rainfall pattern of the monsoon, both at the country level and meteorological sub-division scale, generally shows great deal of year to year variation of the total seasonal quantum and active/weak spells (duration and frequency) of rainfall within the season. Analysis of the rainfall data for the recent 10-year period 2000-2009 does not signify any major characteristic change for any of the meteorological sub-divisions.

However, a marginal decreasing trend in monsoon rainfall over Himachal Pradesh (-3.7%) and small increasing trend over Saurashtra and Kutch (7%) and Lakshdweep (4.3%) are observed.

Visit of Australian Prime Minister

1560. SHRI NARESH GUJRAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state: